

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

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FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 0258

FOR EMBASSY CAPE TOWN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LY, RH

SUBJ: ZIMBABWE LEADERS VISIT TRIPOLI

SUMMARY: BISHOP MUZOREWA DISMISSES GENEVA CONFERENCE
EFFORTS FOR PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT. BISHOP HERE TO
SEEK INCREASED MORAL AND MATERIAL AID IN GUERILLA
WAR AGAINST SMITH REGIME, CLAIMS HIS MOVEMENT
COORDINATING EFFORTS WITH OTHER REGIONAL LIBERATION
MOVEMENT. BISHOP CONDEMNS FRANCE AND U.S.
MUZOREWA'S VISIT COINCIDES WITH NKOMO'S PRESENCE
IN TRIPOLI. END SUMMARY

1. PRESIDENT OF THE AFRICAN NATIONAL LIBERATION
COUNCIL, BISHOP ABEL MUZOREWA REPORTEDLY DISMISSED
THE POSSIBILITY OF A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF THE
RHODESIAN CONFLICT. ACCORDING TO FEB 21 LOCAL
MEDIA, BISHOP MUZOREWA STATED UPON HIS ARRIVAL IN
TRIPOLI THAT "MILITARY STRUGGLE WAS THE ONLY WAY
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FOR THE LIBERATION OF ZIMBABWE FROM THE MINORITY
RACIST REGIME, REGARDLESS OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE
CALLED BY IAN SMITH WITH THE PATRONAGE OF WORLD
IMPERIALISM."

2. MUZOREWA INDICATED TO PRESS THAT THE GUERILLA
WAR WAS "GOING STRONGLY IN OUR FAVOR AND WE ARE

CONFIDENT OF VICTORY." HE REVEALED TO A CERTAIN EXTENT THAT LIBYA HAS BEEN ACTIVELY ASSISTING HIS MOVEMENT WITH FUNDS AND MILITARY EQUIPMENT. MUZOREWA STATED TO MEDIA THAT LIBYANS HAD CONSISTENTLY GIVEN MORAL AND "MATERIAL HELP WITHOUT ANY STRINGS BECAUSE THERE IS NO BIG IMPERIALIST POWER HIDING BEHIND LIBYA." MUZOREWA EXPRESSED HIS GRATITUDE TO LIBYANS AND INDICATED THE PURPOSE OF HIS VISIT WAS TO SEEK MORE ASSISTANCE. HE TOLD THE PRESS HIS MOVEMENT NEEDED MORE POLITICAL AND MATERIAL ASSISTANCE TO COUNTER INCREASING IMPERIALIST INTRIGUES AND FINALLY TO DEFEAT THE RHODESIAN REGIME.

3. BISHOP MUZOREWA MADE INTERESTING COMMENT CONCERNING HIS ORGANIZATION'S ACTIVITIES AND THOSE OF THE REGION. HE CLAIMED THAT "RELATIONS BETWEEN HIS MOVEMENT AND ELEMENTS OF THE LIBERATION ORGANIZATIONS OF PALESTINE, ASSAQUIA AL HAMRA (POLISARIO), ERITREA (ELF) AND OMAN WERE VERY CLOSE AND THEY WERE COORDINATING FOR THEIR LIBERATION."

4. IN TRADITIONAL REVOLUTIONARY STYLE, BISHOP MUZOREWA CONDEMNED U.S. POLICY "ESPECIALLY HER INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF LIBERATION MOVEMENTS." NOR WAS FRANCE SPARED THE BISHOP'S WRATH. HE CONDEMNED THE FRENCH FOR THEIR SALE OF NUCLEAR REACTORS TO SOUTH AFRICA.

5. BISHOP MUZOREWA'S VISIT FOLLOWED BY LESS
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THAN A WEEK THE ARRIVAL IN TRIPOLI OF JOSHUA NKOMO, THE LEADER OF THE ZIMBABWE NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT WHO ARRIVED IN TRIPOLI FEBRUARY 16. NKOMO REPORTEDLY MET WITH COL. QADHAFI AND MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS ALI TRAYKI.

COMMENT: A FAMILIAR PATTERN OF DOVETAILING VISITS FROM RHODESIAN LIBERATION MOVEMENT LEADERS REFLECTS THE POSSIBLE EXTENT OF LIBYAN ASSISTANCE TO THE VARIOUS MOVEMENTS AND THE DEGREE OF DISUNITY BETWEEN THE RHODESIAN AFRICAN LEADERS. MUZOREWA FIRST VISITED TRIPOLI IN MAY OF LAST YEAR. AT THAT TIME, HE MADE STATEMENTS SIMILAR TO HIS MOST RECENT UTTERANCES ATTACKING THE U.S. AND SMITH'S REGIME. DURING MAY VISIT HE INDICATED TO MEDIA THAT HE CAME TO "SEEK" LIBYAN ASSISTANCE. THE ASSUMPTION CAN BE MADE ON THE BASIS OF THE BISHOP'S STATEMENTS THAT LIBYANS HAVE BEEN ASSISTING SINCE HIS ORIGINAL VISIT. WITHIN FIVE DAYS OF MUZOREWA'S MAY 2

VISIT, A DELEGATION OF NKOMO'S LIBERATION FRONT
APPEARED IN TOWN. AGAIN WE SEE THE SAME OCCURRENCE.
WHAT SEEMS APPARENT IS THAT THE SPLIT BETWEEN NKOMO
AND MUZOREWA REMAINS AS GREAT AS EVER WITH BOTH
ORGANIZATIONS VEERING FOR THE LION'S SHARE OF LIBYAN
LARGESSE. GIVEN NIGGARDLY ATTITUDE OF LIBYANS TOWARDS
FUNDING LIBERATION ORGANIZATIONS OUTSIDE ARAB AREA,
SPLIT IN RANKS OF ZIMBABWEANS MAY BE PRETEXT FOR LIBYANS
TO REDUCE ASSISTANCE. AS FOR MUZOREWA'S CONDEMNATORY
RHETORIC AIMED AT THE WEST, HE IS OBVIOUSLY SINGING
THE TUNE OF THE PIPER QADHAFI.
CARLE

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Message Attributes

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